IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Cancel.

2. Cancel.

3. Cancel.

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12. Cancel.

13. Cancel.

14. (New) In a communication device, a method of early detection of configuration information of a predetermined type, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of framed data packets, each of the framed data packets containing an information portion;

detecting a beginning of the information portion within one of the framed data packets, the detecting including scanning the plurality of the framed data packets and establishing the beginning of the information portion for one of the framed data packets by identifying a frame-demarcating character;

unescaping contents of a predetermined number of bytes within the information portion;

identifying when the contents of the unescaped predetermined number of bytes includes predetermined characters;

unescaping contents of additional consecutive bytes succeeding the predetermined number of bytes when the contents of the unescaped predetermined number of bytes includes the predetermined characters;

identifying when contents of the unescaped predetermined number of bytes and contents of additional consecutive bytes contain the configuration information of a predetermined type; and

when the configuration information is of a predetermined type, unframing the one of the framed data packets when the information portion contains the configuration information of a predetermined type.

15. (New) In a communication device, a method of early detection of configuration information of a predetermined type, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of framed data packets, each of the framed data packets containing an information portion;

detecting a beginning of the information portion within one of the framed data packets, the detecting involving scanning the plurality of the framed data packets and establishing the beginning of the information portion for one of the framed data packets by identifying a frame-demarcating character;

identifying when contents of a particular byte or bytes of the information portion contains information of a type associated with the particular byte;

identifying when the contents of the particular byte contains the configuration information of a predetermined type;

unframing the one of the framed data packets when the information portion contains the configuration information of a predetermined type; and

progressing to a subsequent stage when the contents of the particular byte lacks the configuration information of a predetermined type and the configuration information of a predetermined type is disposed in a byte position subsequent to the particular byte.

16. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the progressing to a subsequent stage further includes:

examining contents of at least one succeeding byte of the information portion, the succeeding byte being subsequent to the particular byte;

identifying when contents of the succeeding byte contains information of a type associated with the succeeding byte; and

identifying when the contents of the succeeding byte contains the configuration information of a predetermined type and sequentially examining successive bytes of the information portion until contents of the succeeding byte contain the configuration information of a predetermined type.

17. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the contents of the particular byte and the contents of the succeeding byte includes escaped information.

18. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the contents of the particular byte and the contents of the succeeding byte includes unescaped information.

19. (New) A system for early detection of configuration information of a predetermined type, the system including (i) a terminal device for transmitting and receiving a plurality of framed data packets, each of the framed data packets containing an information portion, and (ii) a communication device coupled to the terminal device, the communication device being operable to:

detect a beginning of the information portion within one of the framed data packets to identify when the information portion contains the configuration information of a predetermined type, and

unframe the one of the framed data packets when the information portion contains the configuration information of a predetermined type,

the detecting and unframing including:

scanning the plurality of the framed data packets and establishing the beginning of the information portion for one of the framed data packets by identifying a frame-demarcating character;

unescaping contents of a predetermined number of bytes within the information portion;

identifying when the contents of the unescaped predetermined number of bytes includes predetermined characters;

unescaping contents of additional consecutive bytes succeeding the predetermined number of bytes when the contents of the unescaped predetermined number of bytes includes the predetermined characters; and

identifying when contents of the unescaped predetermined number of bytes and contents of additional consecutive bytes contain the configuration information of a predetermined type.

20. (New) A system for early detection of configuration information of a predetermined type, the system including (i) a terminal device for transmitting and receiving a plurality of framed data packets, each of the framed data packets containing an information portion, and (ii) a communication device coupled to the terminal device, the communication device being operable to:

detect a beginning of the information portion within one of the framed data packets to identify when the information portion contains the configuration information of a predetermined type, and

unframe the one of the framed data packets when the information portion contains the configuration information of a predetermined type,

the detecting and unframing including:

scanning the plurality of the framed data packets and establishing the beginning of the information portion for one of the framed data packets by identifying a frame-demarcating character;

identifying when contents of a particular byte or bytes of the information portion contains information of a type associated with the particular byte or bytes;

identifying when the contents of the particular byte or bytes contain the configuration information of a predetermined type; and

progressing to a subsequent stage when the contents of the particular byte or bytes lacks the configuration information of a predetermined type and the configuration information of a predetermined type is disposed in a byte position subsequent to the particular byte or bytes.

21. (New) The system of Claim 20, wherein the progressing to a subsequent stage further includes,

examining contents of at least one succeeding byte of the information portion, the succeeding byte being subsequent to the particular byte;

identifying when contents of the succeeding byte contains information of a type associated with the succeeding byte and when the contents of the succeeding byte contain the configuration information of a predetermined type; and

sequentially examining successive bytes of the information portion until the contents of the succeeding byte contains the configuration information of a predetermined type.

22. (New) The system of Claim 21, wherein the contents of the particular byte and the contents of the succeeding byte include escaped information. --